bBr 182.10.1 (1)

Post Surgeon's Office,
FORT McHENRY, MD.

Wm Brewster, Esq.
Boston, Mass.

July 4 1871

My Dear Sir:—

Your favor of the 30th is just to hand. The enquiry regarding Ammodromus maritimus has been several times made before, and I am thinking I had best print a line somewhere, saying that the statement of the occurrence of maritimus in N. H. was an unfortunate error or oversight, that I cannot in the least account for. It was caudacutus that I found at Rye Beach, ~~too~~ late in the summer of 1860, I think — but I cannot recollect exactly — and in preparing my "List," either my memory was at fault, or else the statement was a pure slip of the pen. I have just looked in my cabinet for the Ammodromi, and find the specimens (of caudacutus). Regretting an unfortunate oversight that seems to have occasioned some trouble, I remain,

Yours truly

Elliott Coues

Cowes E. C.
July 4 - 71.

Fort Randall, Dakota,
Mar. 5 1873.

Wm Brewster Esq
Boston, Mass.

My Dear Sir:

I regret that you should have considered any question of Oracle, involved in my remarks on Assyria maculata: certainly nothing is meant to be indicated excepting a mistake such as the best of us are liable to. I had the original text differently, and altered it in proof in consequence of information received to the effect that there might have been some mistake. I will of course, do what you wish with pleasure, in another Edition, and am sorry I have inadvertently appeared to misjudge you unfavorably. – Now please write me explicitly just how the case is, and I will use your letter (quoting its words, if you will make them such as can be ~~properly~~ conveniently printed) on the proof & Postscript.

Faithfully yours
Elliott Coues

9

Cones Co,
March 5 - '73

Address—Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

U. S. Northern Boundary Commission,

Office of Surgeon and Naturalist,

Washington, D. C., Aug. 15 1875

Dear Sir:

I have to thank you for a copy of your paper, which proved so interesting that I have read it — though I usually read nothing except what I must. I regard it as a very satisfactory contribution, completely filling its own niche, and am particularly pleased to note how trained & close an observer you show yourself to be.

Yours truly

Elliott Coues.

Cones, E.
Aug. 16-'75

Smithsonian Nov. 3/75

My Dear Sir

I presumed you would not be seriously aggrieved with my notice.

I also gave you another in the New York Independent of a few weeks ago

Perhaps you had better send me proofs of your next paper for my suggestions

Yours truly

Elliott Coues

Wm Brewster Esq

Cambridge Mass

Cones, E.
Nov. 3 - '75

Office of the

[illegible] of the Territories.

Washn Dec 19. 1878.

My Dear Mr. Brewster—

Your pleasant letter is duly to hand. I have already placed your name on the list of persons to receive the B.C.V., and the last sent to the Dept. some days ago. You should get your copy in a few days—if you don't let me know. All the members of the N.O.C. are down for a copy. I hope you will find something in the course of the book to please you.

I am much more than satisfied with many of writings you have taken up lately

Yours cordially
Elliott Coues

Wm Brewster, Esq.
Cambridge, Mass

E. Cones

Dec. 19, 1878

Office of the

Wash^n Feb. 6 1876

My Dear Mr. Brewster –

I am pained to learn the trouble you are having with your eyes, and trust it may be very temporary. But you must take care – nothing in this world would be an offset to failing vision. At the same time, can't you get an amendment to do some more such articles as you have lately given us, on Texas & Pentonotitlan? They were charming – I see the "smoking flax," as Longfellow said of Keats. Some of the best things have been done under just your circumstances. – About the B.C.V. review, of course, do not trouble yourself further – unless you may interest yourself to turn over the contract to some friend perhaps Drake. Somebody ought of course to do it for the Naturalist, where I am naturally hoping that no very unfavorable review ~~may~~ may appear. I hope to hear soon that the trouble is passed.

Yours very cordially Elliott Coues

Elliott Cones

Feb. 6, 1879.

Office of the

Washington, Sept. 19th, 9.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

I enclose the original drawing of *Vireo atricapillus*, which please return to its owner, with our thanks for the privilege of having it engraved.

Sorry not to have seen more of you during your brief stay in Washington.

Yours very cordially,

Elliott Coues.

Mr. Wm Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Elliott Coues
Sept 19, 1879.

Elliott Coues.
Dec. 13, 1879.

Washington, Dec. 13 1879.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I have read a proof of your article on Vireo philadelphicus with great interest. Your vein is very happy; it will bear diligent, careful working, and if pains enough be bestowed, success is assured. The style is incomparably superior to that which you used when you thought it sufficient to state facts simply & clearly, and let them go. After some experience in authorship, and a weary apprenticeship at a craft in which the public see only results and never processes, I can safely assert, that readability is the touchstone of literary merit. Things not readable are not read. If not read, the where's the use of turning MS. into print? You have discovered the secret: letters are an art, like music or painting; a sufficient end, not merely a means; and a touch of art in portraying nature, raises natural history from the despicable dead level of a realistic study, to the serene hights where the creative faculty, the imagination,

reigns supreme in inexhaustible wealth of resource to ennoble, to vivify, beautify, to transfigure the common-place, and make it an endless source of pleasure. The "science" of a newspaper, the bald unvitalized facts, could perhaps be fairly stated in ten lines; this is nature; the rest is art, and immeasurably higher. The facts, that a little bird was there, and did so and so, is of very little consequence, in comparison with what is made of those facts — with what they are worked up into. It is just the difference, between a cartload of bricks that any donkey can haul, and the structure that the architect alone can build. Reason working on facts makes good prose; an algebraic formula is probably the best & purest prose possible. Imagination applied to the same facts makes poetry, whether the lines begin with capitals and end with rhymes or whether they do not: the latter is not less real and true than the former, and infinitely more beautiful — and this is its own excuse for being: it is dignified to the degree of ~~and~~ an end, not left a mere means. Artists, whether in sound, in color, or in form, are rare; but to many to whom it is denied to be artistic, it is yet permitted to be artful, — a thing far from despicable. Pegge mods! Meanwhile take care of your eyes. Allen has suffered lately, he tells me, and my own are a little inclined to resent the abuse to which they are occasionally subjected. Faithfully yours, Elliot Coues

Office of the

Washington, Dec. 20 1879.

My Dear Mr. Brueßler:

I am pained to learn of your accident, which seems to have been very severe one. Let me hope, however, that it will leave no permanent injury. I judge from your handwriting that it is the left arm, and trust that you may not long be kept from your usual pursuits.

I spoke of your writings with entire sincerity, and am glad to know that you value my appreciation of your literary successes. How would you like to contribute a biography or two to the forthcoming volume of the B.C.V.? If you will take Chrysomitris tristis and Spizella socialis, giving me a complete history, past & pending, and as far as been written on these birds, and in your happiest vein, I shall be happy to let you fill my place in these cases.

Very truly yours Elliott Coues.

Elliott Cons.

Dec. 20, 1879.

[illegible] Jan. 6. 1880

[illegible] Brewster:

[illegible] you are [illegible] welcome [illegible] con-[illegible] [illegible] any letter, you may like to write [illegible] on the [illegible]

[illegible] He is [illegible] His remarks are [illegible] of a Quaker [illegible]. The [illegible] has "found" him, and if he ever [illegible] his [illegible] again in any other quarter, I shall take it up again. [illegible] course [illegible] not notice his "reply."

[illegible] yours

[illegible]

Wm Brewster Esq

Cambridge Mass

Elliott Cones

Jan. 6, 1880.

Office of the
U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 14 1881

My Dear Brewster:—

I am very much obliged to you for your kindly appreciative notice of the W.E. Birds-book, and for that little criticism you found it necessary to make does not in the least detract from my sense of obligation. I am glad you found anything to praise in the book, and heartily thank you for expressing yourself so generously. The circumstances of authorship were peculiar, as you know, and might lead to some complications were they not so well understood. My share of the book was made up from the sweepings of my desk in the clippings of my time, and it is a great satisfaction to find the result so favorable. I perhaps

ought either to have actually edited Stearns or else written a book myself; but I undertook it solely as a kindness to him, and you can see just how it then grew under my hands. If the publishers are satisfied with the business result, and if my affairs permit, the second volume may be expected in due time.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Elliott Coues.

Oct. 14, 1881.

Dr. Coues
Dec. 13, 1881

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 13 1881.

Dear Friend Brewster:

Our friend Allen informs me that you would wish to use the names of my forth coming List for labelling the B.S.N.H. collection of N.A. Birds, and asking if I could not send you proofs. I should be happy to do so, but have only one complete file, which I need of course to keep by me for indexing & other purposes till the trialise is out. The delay however should be slight, as every name is in type, and I am making the index. I had hoped it would date '81, but suppose now that it must run over in January. Having a duplicate of the last butchery plate proofs, I send it to you as a sample, and hope you will like both the plan and the execution. Nothing of the sort has been done before; and if this little treatise (small in bulk but not so in time & work at his cost) bears the good fruit that may reasonably be expected, it should not only please the bird-folk

at their ease in handling names of birds, but add to their writing a speaking a degree of precision and perhaps elegance which has too often been sadly wanted.

As to the ornithological aspects proper, the list differs from R.R's a good deal, and not only in verbal matters. There are 52 names in his which I exclude, chiefly of extra-limital species. The old Check List of 1874, of which this dictionary is ostensibly a 2d edition (though it is really a wholly different work) gave 778 sp. & subsp. From these I subtract ten, and add 118, mostly Greenlandic, Alaskan, & Mexican border things found out since '74. 778 - 10 + 118 = 886 the total of the new list. I had 878 as the MS. went to printer, but in the year of printing there have been 8 additions announced. It is interesting to note, that Allen's analysis of the R.R. list throws out sufficient enough to bring the R.R. total of birds actually known in N.A. to within, I think, a half dozen of my own total. I have no doubt that all the R.R. Mexicans will turn up in due time, like Parus meridionalis & Psaltriparus minimus. But in this list I have gone rigidly by facts, allowing "my prophetic soul" no swing.

Very sincerely Yours

Elliott Coues

Office of the
U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories,
Washington, D. C., Dec. 26 1881.

Dear Mr. Brewster

I am of course much pleased with your kind appreciation of the "new departure" in ornithology, and only hope the result may in any degree justify your expectations. I have the success of this little treatise very near at heart for various reasons, and should be sorely tried did it not do well. I hope it will justify the great expense to which Estes & Lauriat have not spared. There is more time, labor, hope and fear, and money, hanging here than in any other five-times-as-many pages of my printed manuscript.

I have been able to pick out of duplicate proofs a nearly complete set for the first half of the book, including the introductory matter. This I send you, but with

the caution that the sheets are not citable, as yet, even tho' cast; for I launch the plates here and there, in my extreme solicitude for approximate perfection, in typography as in more important respects.

I presume the affair will come to a head in January prox.

Sincerely Yours,

Elliot Cones.

Wm Brewster, Esq.
Cambridge, Mass.

Dr. Cones
Dec. 26, 1881

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

Mar. 2d 1882

My dear Brewster:

I send you today the final batch of proofs of the new C. L., with which, together with what you have in hand, you have practically the whole of the book. Since you have kindly expressed your willingness to do so, I shall be happy to have you notice it for the April B.N.O.C. I have no doubt Allen would be glad to have you do so - have written him on the subject today. It will nevertheless be out before April. I send you a manuscript copy of the title-page, having no

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

printer duplicate on hand.
With best regards,
Sincerely yours,
Elliott Coues.

Dr. Cones

Mch. 2, 1882.

Dr. Coues

Mch. 15, 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Mar. 15 1882.

Dear Mr. Brewster;

Your letter and its enclosure are equally kind and appreciated. I return the latter as suggested, and you may be willing to approve the slight marks I have made upon it. It will answer the exact purpose desired in a preliminary notice, and I need not say how much I am obliged for your prompt attentions.

It is very sad, what you write about Allen — but I expected no less. However, let us hope for the best, now that he has been forced to take

care of himself

There has been a little hitch in the Bulletin proofs, for which I am sorry, but trust I have straightened it out. You will doubtless see the correspondence on the subject. All here support my decision; and no other course seemed just, or not dead against the good of the Bulletin, which we have so much at heart.

I have not had time to pen the two short reviews I want to go in this number. If Batchelder does not get them before the printing reaches that point, let him just go ahead, and I will insert the paragraphs in proper place in the galley proof when received.

Faithfully Yours

Elliott Coues

HBr 182.10.1 (161)

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16 1882

Dear Mr. Brewster —

I was grieved to hear of your accident, on your own account, and because of the change in a desirable programme which it necessitated. Let me trust that recovery may be speedy and complete, and that you may be able to join Allen, in what must be an interesting trip, and one which we ardently hope will prove of the utmost benefit to him. I fear my dearly beloved friend has kept me in partial ignorance of the full extent of his malady; but I know enough to feel the utmost concern for his physical welfare. He had been going at too heavy a pace for anyone to stand, and the result was inevitable. But now that he has been forced to take the requisite rest and change, further ill consequences may be averted.

I have today finished reading over the proofs of the Bull. thus far said, by your interesting article, and think we shall have no hitch in getting out a good number.

I understand the situation regard your notice of the C. L., and judge it had best be deferred under the circumstances you mention. At the same time, it would be well and proper for a short preliminary notice to appear in this number, and I should be glad to have you prepare such a paragraph. Half a page noting the completion of the work & its immediate appearance, with

statement that full notice is necessary deferred, would be about right.

By the way, Jouvet in the last of the British Museum Catalogues, which treats the Troglodytidae under Timeliidae, Sharpe assigns Lafresnaye's name Drymocataphus to Campylorhynchus affinis, leaving what we have all called Drymocataphus without a name, and supplying it with a new one. I do not know the merits of the case, but you might want to look it up in time for this number of the Bull.

I am desperately busy, as usual: everything going on well.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

D. E. Coues.

March 6, 1883

Dr. Coues
Mch. 16, 1882

~~U. S. Geological and Geographical~~

~~Survey of the Territories.~~

Washington, D. C., Mar. 16 1882

Dear Mr. Brewster:

Your good letter to hand. I sincerely trust the difficulty may be adjusted; for, as you say, family jars are always unfortunate. Do what you can. It will probably settle, like most quarrels, into a question of expediency. Dr. S. has taken great umbrage, and has strong backing. If the P. C. conclude that the rider shall stay, he would withdraw the paper entirely, publish it elsewhere, with awkward comment for the Bulletin.

If it be not allowed to be withdrawn the difficulty would be increased for the Bulletin.

In such dilemma, I really think that personal feeling on both sides should give way and be made secondary to the one thing we have most at heart – the interest of the Bulletin. That will certainly be best subserved by the course I have marked out.

I note the precedents you cite. As far as mine was concerned, it is a bad one, I think. I should not do it again.

Sincerely Yours,

Eliot Coues,

Wm. Brewster Esq

Cambridge,

Mass

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., June 17 1882.

My dear Brewster:—

Certainly I will take Bailey's Index to F. & S. if it will be any favor, and perhaps over two other things. Expect copy soon — at any rate no later than when proofs come to me for the review part of the Bull. I am terribly pushed — but that is all of a piece like eels skinned & fried — about as usual.

I am greatly distressed at word I have from Allen — nothing I suppose but what you know, but my gravest fears are aroused — the condition I judge is anything but hopeful, for work if not for life itself ——

Hastily yours,

Elliott Coues.

P.S. By the way I suppose you know the New C. L. is out? A notice in the Early Bull. would be appropriate but if you have not time to do it in fine personal at least lay over till Sept. I leave that matter in your hands entirely so far as the B.O.R.C. is concerned

St. Louis
June 17, 1892

Dr. Coues
July 8, 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical
Survey of the Territories.

Washington, D. C., July 8 1882

My Dear Brewster.

I trust I did not needlessly alarm you about our friend — but as the wind I had did not give any good news, I inferred there was ground for great anxiety. I have no later news than about your own date, and have hesitated to write, not knowing in what condition A— might be. Let me know promptly anything you hear, and I will do the same. I cannot, however, disguise my grave apprehensions. —

As to the C.L., I still hope you will find yourself able to undertake it. If not I shall simply leave the matter with

the Club; for though I have not hesitated to confer freely with you upon the subject, that is perhaps as much as I can do with good grace.

The new ed. of the "Key" is progressing rapidly. It will include "Field Ornithology" just as originally written. The rest is entirely rewritten, enlarged about thrice, and with a new "Outline of the Anatomy and Classification of Birds." It will be profusely illustrated and with several hundred new cuts, the worst of the old ed. being eliminated. As it is probably the last ed. of the work to appear in my life time, I am soliciting to make it good.

Dutton & Bull is a little late this quarter, but promises a pretty good number.

Take good care of your health. Nothing is anything without that. Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., July 25 1882

My Dear Brewster:

It is very gratifying to have even this word from our absent friend. It is some encouragement, though not all that could be desired. I am still afraid that it does not lie entirely in his own hands, though of course the more can be done to make him take care of himself the better. I hope to God my fears are groundless; but I know too much of the treacherous ways of that insidious disease.

You ask about the new "Key".
I enclose the title-page. About
a hundred pages are printed,
and at present rate of progress
I shall have it out in six months.

With best regards,
Sincerely Yours,
Elliott Coues.

Wm. Brewster,
Cambridge
Mass

July 20 / 1892

Dr. Coues

Dr. Coues

Aug 14. 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Rock Enon. Va,

Washington, D. C., Aug. 14 1882

My Dear Brewster.

I am sorry to have missed you, just learning you have been thro' Wash.: I were were a good many things I wanted to talk about, and particularly Allen, from whom I have not heard since his return, which worries me not a little.

I am taking a needed airing, but shall come home again in a few days — in fact have been quite busy here, with MS., proofs & letters.

Hoping we shall have a good Cat-bird Bulletin, and especially that you will

volume of our admirable notice of Arizona birds. I have of course as yet no idea what further the No. will be like, and hope it will not disappoint my expectations.

Dr. D. W. Prentiss and I are about to get out a "second edition" but entirely new, of our Birds of D.C., pub. 1862, as part of the Fauna of Washington the Biological Society projects. I have done my share of it since coming here.

Write me as soon as you can about our "item".

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

Wm Brewster. Esq.
Cambridge. Mass.

"item" "Key" "co-writing our fists".

Cones - Ellipse

Sept. 5. 1882.

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Sept 5 1882

Dear Mr. Brewster:

With some little misgiving I have complied with your request. It is all right enough, but still not an easy thing to do — as I can say with, then: I think ought to be done under the circumstances and in fact have done little more than indicate the course of the proposed review by quoting from the work itself. I think however, I blocked out roughly what you can

make a good far review of. Of course you will want to know my manuscript into yours, as well as include your own criticisms, and commendations if any.

There is one point to which I must allude, tho' reluctantly. It is to the supposed rivalry between this book and another. For myself, I admit no such thing. My attitude is, that of course no rivalry is practicable. But others may think differently, and in fact I understand good people are exercised to know which to "adopt."

U. S. Geological and Geographical
Survey of the Territories,
Washington, D. C., 188

Now here is the point: There appears to be a feeling, which is however groundless, that Mr. R's list is in some way a "Smithsonian" list, or an "official" one, &c. The morale of this would be very unjust to me. Mr. R's list is his as mine is mine. The "official" business must be stopped. It is as unjust to me, as it would be to R. if any body allowed the classical erudition

or other non-ornithologic merit of my work to weigh against him. Talk with Allen about this, (if he is in condition to be bothered with it) and decide justly. The proper position for you to take, I think, would be to state that those who hesitate to follow your list should be guided not by my classical arguments, nor by R.'s supposed Smithsonian opinion, but in any case where names differ in the two lists, to weigh well before following either author. I, of course, prefer my own list, and have no doubt whatever that it will be come to, long remain the standard — to which end, of course, I shall use all reasonable and fair endeavors. Let me see 'proof.' With full appre

Cyanotis — your — Fringilla cardinalis, Linnaeus, vous — to.

Dr. Coues
Sept. 16, 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical
Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Sept. 16th 1882.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I return proofs, just received — very little to correct.

I rather enjoy "C.H.M.", though it is a good deal of space to give to a "popular picture-book." I burned my fingers a little with "that impracticable ass from 'Germantown,'" as Brewer used to call him, before I found out enough about him to drop him. When he was projecting this work, he talked it over with me, and I strongly advised against it. You will remember that "E. C." shortly noticed the first part, and unfavorably: since which time I have seen nowhere of it. I am now persuaded that all those lists of insects sai[illegible] "the

found in the Journals of Birds, in B. E. Pa., are in most fraudulent. Merriam has given him a richly deserved castigation. I doubt that it will hurt the author, because such a book must sell fairly well; but we can all take our fun this notice, and simply drop him.

It was first-rate of Purdie to publish the letter for Kirtland.

The order of sequence of the notes requires rearranging which I have to you.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

P.S. I think Cope is primarily responsible for Gentry, having brought him forward about 8 years ago.

There are one or two other illustrated works now in progress requiring similar handling.

Dr. Coues
Oct. 9 - 1882

Smithsonian, Oct. 9, '82.

My Dear Brewster,

Without knowing who may control such matters, I write to you to know if I can have the use of the 4 cuts on p. 215 of the last B.N.O.C., for use in the new "Key." If, as I presume, there is no objection on any part, will you take the trouble to mail me the block at early convenience?

I am dreadfully busy

upon the "Key", especially the anatomical part, which is all new, and very extensive — probably over 100 pages of small type, to which I am giving special pains, as nothing like a general anatomy of birds has yet appeared in this country.

I congratulate you on the appearance of the last no. of the Bull, which is so creditable to all concerned. Your notice of the F. L. is very agreeable. I am more than satisfied with the reception the work has had, as it en-

courages me to expect for it a long & useful life. The English papers, as "Nature" and the "Athenaeum" are very cordial.

What shall we have next from you after Stephens' Arizona, which is so elaborate & valuable a contribution? I hope the appearance of "Stearns'" book will have at least the good effect of stimulating you to the <u>required</u> B. of N.E., which, I need not say, is not Stearns. You have no idea what a thorn

in my flesh it has been for over two years. I am half-way through the Second Vol., as to types, with copy done to *Anatidae*, and shall be devoutly grateful when I write the last line.

Sincerely Yours,
Elliott Coues.

Wm Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Nov. 7 1882.

Dear Brewster:

The electro. is safely to hand in plenty of time, as the printers are just beginning the "Systematic Synopsis" with Turdidae. The preceding part of the Key makes about 200 pages, a brief Anatomy of Birds.

I am much obliged for your attentions in securing the block.

I shall want to see you personally, some short

things for the Jan. Bull., but cannot do much for that number. I pro. I am dreadfully busy — same old story!

Stevens is written through Atlantic, and I shall finish him up in short order, & be out pretty soon.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Wm Brewer,
Cambridge,
Mass.

Dr. Coues
Nov. 7, 1872

Washington, Nov. 19. '82

Dear Brewster:

Allen has asked me for something for the January Bulletin more popular than usual, and I have prepared a pleasant little thing which I think you will all like. To go with it I will let you have nine of my prettiest new cuts, if you will be very careful of them, have them Electrotyped and safely returned at once.

They are virgin box-wood, for the new Key, and on no account must feel the press. I must also stipulate that the electros be safe, and returned as soon as released from the type-bed. The article is designed to open the number with the compliments of the season. I send the MSS. with 8 blocks to you by Express, and will have the ninth by the time it is needed.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Jan. 19. 1882

Dr. Coues

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19 1882

Dear Mr. Brewster —

Since my last I have found the missing cut, and all nine of them are carefully packed with the manuscript and sent to you per express. Please don't mistake the copy for wrapper or filling of the box, as one of my publishers lately did in a similar case!

I need not repeat what I have already asked of you with reference to the blocks. But it occurs to me

that instead of sending the
mood here to me, you might
turn it over to the University
Press, where it is to go eventually

Hoping you will all
find the compliment
of the season of reason

Sincerely your friend
Edith Grey

Dr. Gomo
Dec. 19, 1922

Dr. Cones

Dec. 2, 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 2 1882.

My Dear Brewster:—

I return your article, with a cancel a mark, and must compliment you on your rapid mastering of the art of writing readably. There is only one further touch you can put upon your composition, and that will merely come in due course.

We must agree to differ respecting the author discussed in your last letters. You have of course better opportunities of judging him in some respects than I have, but you will admit that my long experience as an editor

gives me means of gauging pretty accurately on the whole. — I am confident that my judgment, expressed to you in correspondence with perhaps needless energy, is correct in the main. As soon as he becomes known at all, and therefore a subject of ~~general~~ open criticism you will find the same opinions coming in from other quarters. I should not like to see anatomical notes entirely excluded from the Bulletin, but agree with you they should be sparingly introduced. At the same time, the Bull. can I think better afford to have no at all, than many of Mr. ?'s.

I note your criticism of Ottawa, which seems to be well taken, and will consider my notice accordingly.

With best regards, Sincerely Yours,

Elliott Coues.

Dr. Cones

Dec. 6, 1882

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6 1882

Dear Brewster:

I receive and return proofs today.

I shall be greatly distressed if my blocks don't come up better when worked in press on smooth paper — not only on account of this article, but of the large lot. They are as you saw very fine in the proof impressions, and if the Electro-typing has been properly done, they can hardly fail!

Do not think I count "know what good writing costs" behind the veil! You remember who said "Easy writing makes

d---d hard reading;" and so, conversely, Moody's writings which live stream out of the pen, sparkling by starts when genius gets a jog from the spheres. The rest is hard work, close study, long apprenticeship like everything else of any consequence.

Your own graduation in letters will be when you realize what is "the soul of art."

Sincerely yours

C.T.

Mr. B.

Memoranda

Iliacs are not joined to vertebrae by Aponeuroses.

The condition of the syrinx would be a specific character of the species, not of the age of the specimen.

Division & relations of the muscles would be the same at any age.

Condition testes of old birds out of breeding season would not be distinguishable from that of young birds.

He means vasa deferentia I suppose.

Finally, the birds were probably hatched the preceding winter.

The fourth point seems to me entirely pointless. Mr. B. has given satisfactory evidence of immaturity — why parade J. A. H.'s pointless certificate of the Bonaparte Effect.

Dr. Corus

Dec. 1882

W. Jeffries

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11th 1883.

My Dear J. Brewster:

I am much pleased with the Bull., esp. cly with the way my Arts come out. Every one I have heard speak of it likes that little article.

I am glad you gave the Linnaeans so good a send off. Merriam is steadily working into favor, and deserves to succeed. We shall all be interested to see his birds of the same Mts. If he matches his Rev. B. Com. he will make a rare thing of it.

If I had known you were to write a note on Schufeldt, I of course should not have sent my notice.

It may however be welcome in next time, as your opening sentence paves the way for it.

There is a very exhaustive work on Ohio Birds by Wheaton, 500 pp. just out, in Rep. Geol. Ohio IV. This I will review for the Bulletin. There will probably be some other things from me for April.

By the way, please send back my electros as soon as you can. They are among a lot wanted for the Ornithologist of this D.C. which goes to press s[illegible].

Tell me about Allen when you write next. I haven't had a word for several weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 13 1883.

My Dear Brewster:

I do not know how decided the embargo upon anatomical matter may be for the Bulletin; but if the Club has not decided to absolutely exclude such things, which would I think be unwise, I have an article entitled "Hearing of Birds' Ears," illustrated with nine fine wood cuts, and written not at all in the usual style of "dry" anatomy, which the Club can have for the April number. It is in fact the anatomy and to some extent the physiology of the organ of hearing in birds, and would form a very

be not devoid of interest for most of our readers, as well as entertaining.

Besides those sent, I shall have some more reviews for the April number.

Sincerely yours
Ned Morse

Dr. Morse
Jan. 13, 1883

1321 N. St.,
Washington,
Jan. 30 1883.

My Dear Brewster:

After replying to your other letter, I find to my surprise your of Dec. 14th still in my file of "to be answered. I scarcely think I shall care to modify much my strictures on Brown. The case is exactly as you say — as far as the true source of the faulty nomenclature is concerned, but I can hardly go back of the

author himself to strike at the fountain head. The real point is, are my criticisms just? ~~Which~~ We know that they are; and the reason why does not concern us, but only the fact. It would scarcely become me to raise any general question of the desirability of following one or another authority in nomenclature; but when a certain one is followed in a given case, and gives grounds for just criticism, I should fail in the duty of a reviewer did I not advert to the fact.

I trust you will recognize the propriety of this position, as well as its attendant embarrassment to myself.

As always,

Sincerely Yours

Elliot Cowen

Dr. Cones

Jan. 30, 1883

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 30 1883.

My Dear Brewster:

I have desired the article on birds' Ears to be sent to your address. It would not be pleasing, of course, to think that any article of mine were unacceptable, after my long connection with the Bulletin, to say nothing of more general considerations; for I have flattered my self that my omitho-jecular writings found favor as a rule, and have rather supposed that my contributions to the Bulletin, especially, were accepted as a matter of course.

The trouble with anatomical papers is not their anatomical

character, but the controversy which we injudiciously admitted to our pages. J. & S. ought not to have been permitted to pound each other in print in our pages. You will admit that nothing of the sort was heard of until the first named arose to criticize on his off ear.

Besides, there is anatomy and anatomy, and mine is one kind. There are, I think, 15 or six electrotypes, one of them of four five figures, to come to you with the MS.

I had a delightful and encouraging letter from Allen, who, as I am glad to see, will come on deck in the April Bulletin.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Jan. 30, 1883

Dr. Coues

Dr. Cones

Mch 11, 1883

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., March 11th 1883

My Dear Brewster —

Among the otherwise entirely pleasant features of my visit to Boston I have to regret only that we did not see more of each other, and especially that things so arranged themselves that I could not pay you the intended and in fact promised visit on Friday, the day after my lecture. For though I was here over on that day, it was necessary to go into Boston and attend to business, which cut up the day to such an extent that I could not find time enough to return to Cambridge, and had to take the Evening

train for home. You can readily understand how, under the circumstances of my visit, with every thing subjected to the one objective point on the night of Thursday, I was anything but the master of my own time and movements. Better luck next time for me, I hope! When are you coming South?

I have just returned a lot of Bull. proofs to Allen, somewhat delayed, as I was hurried off to N.Y. on private affairs almost as soon as I returned from Boston. Expect notice of Wheaton from me for this no.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Dr. Coues

Blackburg, Va Apr 29/883

Apr. 29th (3)

Dear Mr. Brewster.

I have been looking with much interest & some doubt upon the N.E. "Larus ~~leucopterus~~ glaucescens". L. kumlieni may be all right, but any intermediate with the gray-black part of the primaries blued would give about the pattern of glaucescens, and it seems to me I remember a remark of Audubon's to the effect that some herring gulls change thus. There is a pretty close & careful descr. of glauc. in B.N.W., and according to my recollection glauc is a slighter bird, with weaker bill, tho' not much of any smaller than argent. Should be glad to have you look a little further into the matter. There may be a snag in the case. However, having seen no specimens, I know nothing about it. L. glaucescens has of course no business in New England.

That was a good note of yours on Holboell's red-poll. You must have

been handling some just such skins as attracted my attention in '62 & '63. It is a pretty good bird, as red polls go. Some fine day somebody will up with A. frenscens again, as about as good as Falco "labradorus" and some other dark birds from that foggy place.

Allen and I have been corresp. about the A.O.U. — It is a great idea, and will surely bear fruit, if we handle it right. The idea has taken good clear shape in my mind, and I showed just by what A. says that it is on at this end of the line fully well with those from the hold. I have never said a word yet, except to him, and my notion is, we want to "spring it" suddenly in full shape in the July Bull., calling meeting in Sept., hammering it again in the Sept. Bull.; I will send on soon a draught of the proposition, and then we can decide upon its final shape. There is every thing in it, especially the expansion & vigor of the new Bull. The closer it is kept till we get ready to move the better; so for as I know, it rests at present with three people only.

Sincerely yours.

Elliott Coues.

Address Wash: as usual — I receive very small

Dr. Coues
June 1, 1883
About A. O. A.

U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., June 1st 1883

Dear Mr. Brewster —

Your favor of the 28th is to hand. I wish you could have found Swainson's Warbler too, but perhaps you will have better luck another time.

Of course, after what you say of Lanius glaucescens, I am "settled," so to speak, for you have examined the birds and I have not; so my suggestion fails.

There is a good deal of sense in what you write of the deliberations that you had by the Nuttallians, respecting a public call.

We each know a number of thirsty aspirants for unearned glory who would jump at a chance to mix up in any movement of the kind.

Suppose then that we print a private "invitation, to be sent to whom we please, beginning with "To ____" to be written in, and going on with "You are cordially invited to ___ &c &c giving a statement of what we want to do in resolving the N.O.C. into the A.O.U., naming place & date of meeting, preferably in N.Y. in September, and considering those who then come as founders. This would be to retain perfect control of who should not come in. Of New England ornithologists to be asked you and Allen would

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., 188 .

be better judges than I am. Of
Others, I think of Baird, Lawrence,
Ridgway, Henshaw, Chas. Aldrich,
D. W. Prentiss, G. B. Grinnell, W. E. D. Scott,
E. W. Nelson, C. H. Merriam and doubtless others
now occur to me on further
reflection. One new England name
not wanted, in addition to some
that Allen has given me, is that
of Jos. M. W. I think we should
closely agree as to who to ask.
For myself, I have absolutely
no personal consideration, to
induce me to name anybody
out.

Besides the one here mentioned
there and those Allen gave me, there
are two or three who have printed

or edited our publications who still are better left out. These ~~are~~ will doubtless occur to you. One lives near Phila., and another in Mass.

Such a limited private call would carry with it a social & personal weight which no promiscuous public one could.

There is one thing we must be very careful about: that is our list of Foreign Members. It would be a delicate matter to handle them in any way. So I think the list should be bodily transferred from N.O.C. to A.O.U., without any change.

The Hon. members, like the Active ones, might dissolve and be reformed.

One of my ideas, which I

U. S. Geological and Geographical

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as discussed with Allen, refers especially to the ostensible transfer of the Mullate Bull. probably under a new name, but contin. of numeration of vols., to some good strong publisher, for the benefit of his firm name in business matters, and other advantages. I have little doubt that Estes & Lauriat would allow their name, they of course taking no liability for the magazine, and we retaining of course entire editorial authority.

The publication of the A.O.C. whatever its name & style, will incontestibly be the thing of the new concern, just as the A.O.C. has thus far been

practically the S.O.C.

I think annual dues of active members might be 5.00, this to include a subscription to the Bull.

I think we might copy, in our organization, pretty closely after the B.O.W. which has been so successful, and perhaps our publication might be christened by some name like "Ibis". I had thought of "The Auk." But all these things are to be considered later. The first thing is to decide upon our form of call or invitation, make a list of those to receive it, appoint place & date of meeting: and then, when we see who is there, to make up our organization in details by the sense of the

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories,

Washington, D. C., 188

meeting.

Cambridge would be most desirable for some, Wash^n for some, but probably neither of these foci of ornithology would be selected, but some intermediate point, so as to avoid any appearance even of sectionalism. N.Y. City is the poorest ornithologically of all, and therefore preferable. If it is agreed, I will at once communicate with my cousin, Secy of the Linnaean Soc., with reference to use of the Am. Geog. Soc's rooms where the Linn. Soc. meets.

I had meant to write to Allen today on the same subject, but

to do so would be practically to duplicate this letter. So will you kindly show it to him, and consider it addressed also to him.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours

Elliot Cowes

Suppose you draft between you such a form of resolution as you feel to be, and send it to me, when I will make notes if any, and return it.

U. S. Geological and Geographical

Survey of the Territories.

Washington, D. C., June 12 1883.

Dear Mr. Brewster -

There is much force in what you say, of the original numerousness of the A.O.U., and I am heartily in favor of keeping small & select, and making it somethg something of an honor to be a member. But all experience in these things goes to show, that if you invite 40-50 persons, we shall be lucky if we get 20-25, who will of course be the most in earnest of the whole, by a and therefore the most desirable, by a sort of automatic self-selection so to speak. So to invite a fairly large number will be to get a fairly small one, of picked of the best of the lot; we shall have the credit of catholicity, and avoid any cry

of cliques, and start with about the same actual results in the way of quantity and equality as if we had seemed to be to cliques & sectional in the beginning. My theory is, that we cannot make it too close a corporation — the closer the better. But some reasonable concession we can make to appearance of breadth at the start — works both ways in our favor. I think there is no really objectionable name in the list, though some are less desirable than others.

But I have written at such length to Allen, that I need not impose further on you. Think over the compromise as to publicity in July Rule, which I suggested to him in my last.

Glad to hear you will handle Hearns for me

Sincerely yours

Elliott Coues,

A. O. U.

Dr. Coues
June 12, 1893

Office of the
U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories,
Washington, D. C., July 24 1883.

Dear Mr. Brewster:

I send a note for the Bulletin — which need not follow Allen to Princeton, so is addressed to you. I have the "Invitation" in hand, and am only waiting to hear definitely about our place of meeting. Everything looks favorable! The case is a very good one I think. The signers should have a good talk before the meeting and decide upon just what is to be done. I think we have laid the foundation of a great thing, and we must see that the superstructure corresponds.

Sincerely Yours,
Elliott Coues.

Dr. Comes

July 24, 1883

A. O. U.

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D.C., July 31 1883

Dear B—

I regret to hear of your illness, but presume it is only some temporary indisposition, as you expect to be able to attend to the invitations. As Senator Blood from A., you would get them out, send to him for his signature, he to me for do. and I to you for do, when you would be kind enough to address and mail them from Cambridge. I think there should be not less than 100 printed — rather more — not of course to be used as invitations, but to give to the press and make other "plants" which may help the cause along. I should like at least twenty, and will see that some are placed in good hands in England. Leading newspapers ought to have the notice. If the call goes out without placing matters it will do no harm as we can follow it up with

Dr. Cones

July 31, 1883

A. O. U

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D. C., _____ 188__

another notice, serving to keep the thing stirring. In sending, better send flat, not rolled or folded, and finally use large official envelopes, not like this sheet & envelope. I think it would be a good idea to have the envelopes neatly printed in left upper corner with { American Ornithologists' Union, First Congress }. Though this may seem so much frill, I believe in having things all ship shape & business like, and nothing helps this more than responsible looking stationery. The really most important thing, as for the Signers to confer before the meeting, have a clean & clear programme and a solid slate made up, so that they know exactly what they want to do, and who they want to do it. Nothing like it, for the formation of harmony and the general welfare!

Sincerely yours

—C.

OFFICE OF THE
U. S. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THE TERRITORIES,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 28 1883.

Dear Brewster —

I was afraid this address might not answer, but had no other, nor does A. know any. Can you get the paper to Deane? — If you signed 50 calls, there must be 47 out in all; I have sent 3 to Prof. Newton, to Eds. of Ibis, and Ed. of Zoolgist — not as invitations of course, but complementary, for their information. A. concurs. We have received the Leaflet Bull of the Am. Mus Nat Hist through Bicknell's kind attentions. A. agrees that there ought to be somebody on the spot, and that B. might be made a committee of arrangements — though I don't know of anything to "commit" or "arrange". Everything looks highly favorable. We have a handsome letter from Baird, and R.R. seems to take to the scheme well. I must try to get on and consult with you and A. before the meeting. How about the N.O.C. and Bull? It ought to be decided beforehand, what action or ground the Club desires to take. I think the conversion of the Bull. into the organ of the new Organization highly desirable. Sincerely Yours, Elliott Coues

Dr. Cones

Aug 28, 1883

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D.C. Sept 6th 1883

Dear Brewster:

As the time for the Convention draws near, I am naturally growing anxious as to the result of our move. It is going to be a great thing — if anything. It would seem almost indispensable, for you and Allen to be present. Every letter I have received has been cordially favorable to the scheme, — but how many persons will attend is another matter. I shall be in Boston about Sept. 20th, and wish if possible to arrange for a conference with you and Allen between that date and the 25th. Any day will suit me, that is convenient to you & A. We have some matters of first consequence to discuss and if possible decide upon before we open the Convention. It might be well also for you to call a meeting

of the N.O.C. as the future of the B.N.O.C. and C.O.U. are of course intimately related. If you will write to Allen, as I will, also, and ~~let~~ arrange for the conference, I will time my movements to suit your convenience, between the dates named. Let me know as soon as convenient.

Sincerely Yours

Elliott Cones

Dr. Cones
Sept. 6, 1883

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D.C. Sept. 12 1883

Dear Brewster —

Our last two letters crossed — wonder they didn't hear each other go by; they are were simply echos of each other. All right! You and Allen get together, and draw up a protocol of what you think must ought to be; I will bring mine, and it will be a sad day if they don't fit each other and fit the case too, when worked in together. I am more than even satisfied the thing is going to be a grand success; but we must make no mistake while the cake is baking, to be sure of neither dough nor a crisp! — I suppose a second envelope which you see has missed fire — you probably know the more specific address. And by the way, send me your house address and Allen's, both of which I have not in mind.

Sincerely yours — C.

Dr. Cones

Sept. 12, 1843

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D.C. Sept 18th 1883

Dear Brewster:

I have been much interested in Larus tumleini, which seems to be all right – only I fear the name will not hold. Lichtenstein's L. chalcopterus without any descr. is a "nomen nudum" – a bare name of no standing in court, either with or without ~~xx~~ identification with L. leucopterus. It is simply a rifle ~~did not~~ never existed, and does not bar out Chalcopterus Bruch. If you identify the latter with your bird, that name must stand. I have made no mark on the proofs, thinking it best to write to you privately. L. tumleini can only stand by throwing overboard chalcopterus Bruch as unidentifiable, for brevity and inadequateness of description, or other valid reason, but if your identification holds, there is no chance for the new name. – I have see you very shortly after you get this.

Sincerely yours, Elliott Coues.

Elliott Coues

Sept. 18, 1883

American Ornithologists' Union.
Founded, New York, Sept. 26, 1883.

Wash. Nov. 13 '83

Dear Brewster —

I have lost or mislaid Dwane's address which you gave me, and beg therefore you will direct the enclosed to him.

I hope you will be on here soon with Allen. There must obviously be another meeting of the Council before January, and as there are only three members here, two more will be required for a quorum.

The opposition to our proposition is more insignificant & evanescent than I had supposed at one time, and may now I think be

fairly considered done away with. Two or three persons appear & have got themselves into a ludicrous box. You remember some voting in Council about a couple of candidates for associate membership?

Do be you are in good trim and calm too. We must run "show down" our first hand with the new journal, which must be, like a Bay mare, without fear & without reproach.

Sincerely Yours,

Elliott Coues.

Dr. Coues

Jan. 13, 1883

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Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington, D.C. Feb. 28th 1884

Dear Mr. Brewster:

A meeting of the Committee on Nomenclature of the A.O.U. will be held here on March 7th and following days, and I trust you may be able to attend. The sub-committee on rules will doubtless be ready to report; and I trust that that on Specific determinations may also be prepared.

With regards,

Very truly yours,

Elliott Coues.

Chairman

E. Cones
Feb. 28, 1884

Dr. Coues

Oct. 31. 1887

United States Hotel
Boston Mass Oct. 13 1887

My Dear Brewster:

I really found no opportunity to speak to you of what is nearest my heart just now. So let me say that the coming wedding is to be a quiet affair, with invitations supposed to be only to relatives. But Otto the lucky & myself take the privilege of asking two or three of our intimate friends, and I need not assure you that I should

be delighted if Mrs. Brewster & yourself should honor the occasion with your presence.

The card for the same meal with this — there is only a private note from

Sincerely yours friend
Albert Lucas.

1726 N st., Wash.ⁿ D.C.
Nov. 29. 1890.

My Dear Brewster:

I said I would write you soon and give you another chance before the Sharpe polls close! The memorial took a boom next day, and has now about 30 names, including, besides those you know, D.W. Prentiss, Dr. Fox, Lester F. Ward, F.W. Free, C.V. Riley, Theo. Gill, Ridgway, Hinshaw Merriam, & others. Mr. G.N. Lawrence to whom I wrote replied cordially and promptly, desiring me to affix his name. I am only waiting to hear from a few others to whom I wrote, to mail the paper — and I do hope it won't have to go without your name, as that is one which would be missed. Kindly answer at early convenience and oblige

Sincerely your friend,

Elliott Coues.

Elliott Coues

Nov. 29. 1890

1726 N Street
Washington, D.C. Dec. 6. 1890

My Dear Brewster:

I have your note, & while I regret your decision, I of course respect your motives, and fully appreciate your feeling. Your name will be missed, but at the same time, were I in your case, I should not have signed, so we are at one in principle, though in this particular we differ in opinion. – I have addressed the testimonial today, with 35 signatures. Believe me, with warm personal regard,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Mr. Wm Brewster,
Cambridge,
Mass

Elliott Coues.

Dec. 6. 1890.

CABLE ADDRESS:
COUES, WASHINGTON.
HOME ADDRESS:
1726 N STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICE ADDRESS:
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 23 1896

Dear Brewster:

Our excellent secretary has sent me due notification of the 14th Congress, and I shall certainly attend, if nothing now unforeseen occurs to prevent. I missed the last Cambridge meeting, as you will remember, and it is many years since I have had the pleasure which now presents itself — only once before, I think since the Union was founded. No doubt we shall all have a good time, and I shall be able to present myself as a very "active" member of the Union, as I am just now absorbed in work upon the fifth edition of the "Key," and hope to have it out early in 1897. So I shall back with special pleasure in all the ornithological light Cambridge can shed!

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues.

Couns – Elliott
Oct. 23rd. 1896.

Wash.n, Nov. 30, 1896.

My Dear Brewster:

I and Mrs. Coues both regret the change in your plans, but we shall be glad to see you, with Mrs. Brewster and Miss Simmons, and will try to make your stay agreeable. Kindly present regards.

I am much obliged for the copy of descr. of J. h. Humbert, which was all that I desired. There is not the slightest question that Coale's shufeldti is my long prior connectens, and I shall claim the name. Do you remember whether I made my types of some specimens in your collection, or from S. I. materials?

Another interesting point has just come up, concerning which I have written an article for the January Auk. When Dr. Stejneger wrote "Habia Against Zamelodia", and knocked my genus in favor of Reichenbach's, 1850, he was quite right in his contention that Habia as used by both Vieillot and Lesson was only a vernacular name of the species of the tanagrine genus Saltator. But he quite overlooked the fact that Cuvier used Habia instead of Saltator, as a strict Latin genus-name, which of course debars Reichenbach's much later transference of the name Habia to our Grosbeaks. If you have a copy of Cuvier at hand, any edition from 1817 to 1849, please look it up to satisfy your own. In the English ed. of the Animal Kingdom, London, 1849, now before me, I find

Ernest Elliott.
Nov. 30th, 1896

Habia formally and correctly used as the genus name of certain tanagers, to which a different vernacular name it is given; and Habia is only entered in the Index of the work, under head of "List of scientific names" as distinguished from the Index of Common names. Dr. Stejneger made a sheer oversight in this case, and the whole business of Habia as applied to our grosbeaks is a sorry blot on our nomenclature, which must be effaced as soon as possible. I am anxious to have the matter righted in the Committee's next Supplement, in Jan. Auk, and as the case must be passed upon by the Committee to that end, please inform yourself in the premises, so as to be able to send in your vote by letter, in case you should not be here in person in time.

With warm regard,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Wash^n. D.C. Dec. 10 /96

My Dear Brewster:

I am only sorry you should have had any trouble in hunting up the types of my Junco h. connectens, but it was worth while, as it settled J. h. [illegible] for me. The important specimen will be returned to you in due course by Mr. R. R.

We have had a pleasant and important meeting today, passing upon many questions, in every case unanimously. Your Geospiza thlypis a. usnea is all right, and so is my Zamelodia.

The next supplement to our list, in the Jan. Auk, should be an eye-opener!

Hoping to see you soon here,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Bones - Elliott
Dec. 10th, 1896.

1726 N st., Wash.n D.C.
Jan. 2. 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

I have just recd, acted on, and transmitted the circular letters and other papers which you sent me, asking R.R. to do likewise, and C.H.M. to return them direct to J.A.A.

Like yourself, I have no vote to give on the Agelaeus tuberculatus californicus, and should wish to see specimens before expressing an opinion.

I think you can quite safely vote for Leyseloides niger borealis, and hope you will do so. This subspecies has been standing all these years in the Key, ignored or overlooked by the Committee. Hartert, who lumps much more than we do, recognizes its distinctness in Brit. Mus. Cat. Even Bendire, who seldom has an opinion on such subjects, takes issue with the Committee and gives results of examination of material — wing 1/2 an inch longer in borealis. There is also to be considered the wide interval between the two forms in geog. distr. If you consider these data sufficient, please change your vote by letter direct to Mr. Allen.

You will do me a favor, if you cannot support me in the savanna vs. savannarum matter, by voting to defer action. The case seems likely to be lost, as it stands now, yet I think there is a n underlying principle that ought to be discussed in full committee, and shall be satisfied if I can have the matter put off for the present. As you know, the two names are simply nominative singular and genitive plural of the same word. We would hardly tolerate a

Californicus and a Californianus as different ~~word~~ names in the same genus; or an arizonae and arizonensis; yet these differ more than savanna from savannarum, having a different grammatical element affixed to the root-word.

I had hoped to see you before now, but it is not too late to wish you a very happy new year!

Very cordially yours,

Coues.

Cones-Elliott
Jan. 2, 1897.

Jan. 6th, p.m.

My Dear Brewster:

Yours of 5th is this moment recd.

All proofs I have had from you were very promptly mailed by me to R.R., for his inspection and action, to be by him similarly produced before C.H.M., who was to remail direct to J.A.A. when he had likewise recorded his vote on the circular letter which came with the first batch you sent me. Since the first batch, I think I have had only one galley from you, which was sent immediately on the same circuit. So if there has been any delay, it is not at my door. If you do not soon hear they have come to hand in New York, better write R.R. or C.H.M.

I quite agree with you that we should not decide hastily, or except in full committee, upon vexed questions — as we have too often done; and in both the cases you name, have no objection to their going over. But I think probably the Cypseloides case has been decided affirmatively for borealis.

Sorry to hear your intended visit is "off" for the present, and also for the vexatious cause of your change of mind. With best regards to Mrs. Brewster,

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

James Elliott
Jan - 5. 1897.

1726 N St., Wash.n D.C.
Jan. 17. 1897

My Dear Brewster:

If you have maintained your position in the case of Blanqula, we have carried this important point. Dr. Merriam and I both took strong grounds on your side of the case, and I could not conscientiously change my vote at Allen's request, with every desire to oblige him. I have always considered our transfer of Blanqula to Harelda a sheer blunder originating with Dr. Stejneger, and am very happy to have been instrumental in correcting it. In no event would I ever come to use Blanqula for Harelda, and Glaucionetta for the former, whether the A.O.U. did so or not; and it is now very gratifying to me to be able to use these genera correctly and at the same time be in accord with A.O.U. usage.

— By the way, will you take the trouble to look at a specimen of Callipepla, and see if it has 14 or 12 rectrices? Ogilvie-Grant gives 14, and if this is so, it is unique in the Odontophorinae, where 12 is the rule, with the only further exception of Rhynchortyx, which has only 10. As the number of rectrices gives good generic characters throughout the Gallinae, if Callipepla has 14 we must of course reinstate Lophortyx as a full genus. I never favored its reduction to a subgenus, but did not before have the new and strong character for its generic rank here indicated.

When shall we see you here?

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

Croes — Elliott,
Jan. 17. 1897.

1726 N st., Wash.n D.C.
Feb. 6 '97.

My Dear Brewster:

I suppose you have already heard of poor Bendire's death in Florida on the 4th — nothing else has been expected for some months, as you remember my saying last November. You have to appoint a eulogist. If you should ask me, I should be obliged to decline, not for lack of sympathy, but for want of sufficient biographical information. The same would probably be Mr. Elliot's case. Ridgway cannot make a speech, and is out of the question, though his knowledge is ample. Permit me to suggest Dr. J. C. Merrill, a particular and intimate friend of Bendire's, well qualified to speak of him in every respect. They were great cronies when M. was stationed in Washington, and I think you could not find another man so well qualified as Merrill is, among our Active Members.

Mrs. Schufeldt's sad case is on in the courts, and Mrs. Lewis is appearing as her friend and supporter during the painful ordeal. His brutality and baseness, as developed in the testimony, almost passes belief; but nothing is too vile for a miscreant who could pen and publish such a scandalous outrage as that which I sent you for your official action.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues.

Lowes – Elliott

Feb. 6, 1897.

Wash.n D.C. Mar. 1 1899.

My Dear Brooks:

I was extremely sorry to hear of your illness, and have a lively sympathy for you, as my own experiences with that devilish disease have been extensive. Clearly, you can do no work for the present, except devote yours to hygienic reforms! Of course you have the best of medical advice, but let me intrude to the extent of recommending you to live as generously as your stomach will stand, with plenty of good sound wine. I turned the corner of my grippe in 1891 on a case and a half of the best Port that could be procured. Also, don't forget that this is a disease of which, as the Irishman said, you are still sick after you have got well of it! I suppose we shall not see you for some time, but remember that, whenever you come through Washington, 1726 N st. is yours.

I have of course not troubled you further in the Shufeldt case. The papers are just now in Dr. Merriam's hands. In due course I will deposit them with our Secretary, who can hand them over for further action whenever desired.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

P.S. I am sure you could not have made a better selection than Dr. Merrill for Bendire's Obituary.

Coues Elliott
March 1, 1897.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

1726 N st., Wash.n D.C. Mar. 11/97

My Dear Brewster:

I do not know when or where this will catch you, but I hope it will find you in better health than you were when I last heard from you.

I lately had sent to me an interesting specimen — Lirria lomvia from South Carolina — probably the southern most record to date. I have made a note of it for the April Auk, and do not know where the specimen had better rest than in your cabinet. So I send it to you — please accept, with best regards of

Yours sincerely

Elliott Coues

Agnes Elliott
Mar. 11, 1897.

1726 N st., Washington, D.C.
Mar. 18' 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

I was surprised at your letter from Cambridge, and only sorry for the cause of your detention. No wonder you say "damn the grippe & its aftermath" — I know all about it, and am still beneficiary of its legacy of 1891, when I fully believed my earthly career was closed for ever, and it was a year before I could do a ~~like~~ lick of work. But I hope it won't go so hard with you as that, and that you sooner regain a fair state of health than I did.

Owing to some oversight, Uria Romvia did not go to you at the time I said. But it is on its way now, having started to day.

I shall have to trouble you with the Sheffield Case, to be attended to at your leisure. I enclose an important letter which speaks for itself, and expresses exactly the view I took. All our leaders are a unit in their determination to get rid of the fellow. The only difference of opinion is, whether he should be permitted to resign, not out of any consideration for him, but as the easiest way for us. I say no! In the first place, I don't believe he would resign; he is a tricky scoundrel, and this is clearly a case for taking the bull by the horns and not by the tail. Secondly, it would be entirely

to the wishes and feelings of the Audubon family to have resorted to expulsion; they cannot be hurt by any proceedings of ours, after the outrage to which they have already been subjected. Thirdly, we have nothing whatever to fear, if we proceed strictly according to our own By Law on the subject. Fourthly, the charges will be confined to the single point, absolute proof of which is in our hands. Fifthly, nothing short of public ignominious expulsion, with subsequent publication of the fact, will meet the enormity of the offence.

Dr. Merriam and I will sign the formal charge and specifications (which shall be revised in phraseology by a competent lawyer), and place the document in your hands, together with all the other papers in the case, for your further action.

There is no hurry in the matter, and we shall not move till the present civil suit for divorce is finished. After that, the miscreant will have to reckon not only with the A.O.U., but probably also with the Cosmos Club and the War Department.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

Howes – Elliott
March 18, 1897.

Salem, N.Y., July 30, 97.

My Dear Brewster:

This will probably catch you somewhere in Europe, where I hope you are having a good time, & getting rid of all traces of the grippe.

At the excellent suggestion of Dr. Allen, the charge against R. W. S. was changed from "Conduct unbecoming a gentleman", to "That he is an improper person to be connected with the A.O.U." The specifications are unchanged. Sage got out the printed notification in good form on the 27th inst. and I trust everything is in train for exposing the wretch next Nov.

I have been spending a delightful month here in the beautiful and hospitable Audubon home, luxuriating in Audubboniana. Miss A's work has gone to press through the Scribners; it is a good thing, and I hope that soon after its appearance she may be put on our corresponding list, which she will have then well deserved.

The new book, Citizen Bird, is just out, and I have sent you a copy which please accept with my best regards. It is a beautifully printed work, and you will agree with me that Fuertes' pictures are exquisite — the very best series of bird portraits ever produced in black & white. The success of the book has been simply phenomenal already, and we expect to do still better in the fall.

With best regards, Cordially yours,

Coues

Jones – Elliott.
July 30, 97.

145 Danforth st, Portland, Maine.
Aug. 26. 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

Yours of the 23d reaches me here, where Mrs. Cones and I are visiting friends. I am right glad to welcome you home again, though pained to learn how sadly the grippe has knocked you up. Isn't it the devil's own beast of a disease, with its train of ills as sequelae? However, you have of course the best of medical advice and attention; and with the comforts of home, and taking good care of yourself, you may come around all right again — and I trust it may be soon. Write again when you feel just like it, but take no needless cares or duties upon yourself for the present.

Shufeldt is of course shewing his teeth in impotent rage, but for his counter-charges I don't care a straw, and I suppose Merriam to be equally unconcerned. He began by assuming a high horse attitude towards Sage, trying to bulldoze him with lofty scorn and threats, in a letter which is mostly quibbling and lying. He starts in

Howes – Elliott, Aug. 26 1897 1

by challenging the "legality" of the charges, because he received a copy of them instead of the original, with Merriam's & my own signature; and because no names of witnesses are appended. I hope he doesn't take us for such fools that we can be blinded by such shystering as that! We are not to try him in a court of law, to see whether or not he is guilty of certain acts, for the evidence of that fact is on paper in our hands, undisputed & indisputable; we simply sit as a court of honor to decide whether certain publications show him to be an improper person to be connected with the Union; and if two-thirds of us so think, he can be expelled. We have nothing to do with legal technicalities, if we proceed strictly according to the section of our constitution which covers such cases. Having expelled him, the Union can simply ignore any counter charges or other proceedings he may institute.)

Ask Sage to give you a copy of his ~~letter~~ correspondence with Sh. so far.

To turn to more agreeable

matters: I am delighted with your praise of Citizen Bird, particularly regarding Fuertes' pictures, — aren't they fine — the finest, I think, and best portraits ever printed in black & white in text! I knew you would like them — you were quick to see the power & genius displayed in those early, crude and "ocudacious" pictures I showed you in Washington — and the noble young fellow only needed a little training in technique to become a great artist. I think his possibilities for the future are simply boundless —

The sale of the book has been simply phenomenal. The publishers were advertising its fifth thousand in a month from day of publication, and this is only a beginning. This success is unparalleled in a book of its class —

Not impossibly I will come to see you in Cambridge on my way

home next month – it may be well for us to confer together & with Judge Almy. The case has no precedent, and you will have to decide just how to conduct it, justly & judicially.

With warm regards, & best wishes for the speedy release from the "grip of the grippe,"

Yours as ever

Cowen

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ORNITHOLOGY

THE LEADING MONTHLY FOR BIRD-STUDENTS IN AMERICA

The Osprey Company

Publishers of THE OSPREY

~~61 NORTH PRAIRIE STREET,~~

~~GALESBURG, ILL.~~,

Edited by WALTER ADAMS JOHNSON

Associated with DR. ELLIOTT COUES,

~~WASHINGTON, D. C.~~

145 Danforth st., Portland, Me.,
Sep. 2. 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

Yours of Aug. 30, which went to Wash^n. has just reached me here, where Mrs. Coues and I are still lingering on a visit to friends. I quite agree with you on the desirability or even necessity of our having a personal conference, regarding the detestable Sharpeldt business, which we have got to handle ~~without gloves~~, yet in due form, in order to dispose of him effectually — for he is in for all the mischief that a thoroughly bad man at bay can make by gambling, lying, and bulldozing. Yet I cannot imagine such a body of men as the A.O.U. active members letting him get the better of them by any means whatsoever.

The case of my movements is just this: Next week Mrs. Coues and I go to Dublin, N.H., to finish the month of September. I do not know what sort of a lay-out you have at Lake Umbagog, or what arrangements we could make for being together there a short time; but if all that were favorable, I might make the trip to Cov for with you. Though

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GALESBURG, ILL.,

I should hate to bother you with this dirty nuisance while you ought to be taking things easy on your camp. So perhaps it will be best for us to arrange to meet early in Oct., on your return. If you intend to be home by Oct. 1, and can put me up for a day or two, I will come, while Mrs. Coues goes straight through to Wash^n. without stopping. Like as not Sage could slide over to Cambridge at the same time; and with your friend A. Hay we could make up our plan of procedure.

I am worried at the possibility that you may not be able to preside in November. Ridgway, who would naturally take the chair, probably won't be there, and if he were, could not handle the case. He can't preside at an ordinary meeting, let alone such as one as this will be. Neither Merriam nor I could properly take the chair, as we are the accusers. The choice would have to be between Elliot & Allen; and of the two, probably the former would be best on this occasion.

It grieves me deeply that you cannot report improvement in health; but perhaps your travelling was rather hard on you, and

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GALESBURG, ILL.,

very likely a quiet month in the woods will make the case take a favorable turn.

In answering, use above address, and add: "Care C. J. Thomas." We expect to leave for Dublin sometime next week, the day uncertain. I must send this to Cambridge to be forwarded, as your letter gives no certain address. If you should write me by Monday next I should get it here; and if a letter comes here after we go to Dublin it will be forwarded to me there.

Very cordially yours,
Coues

Howes - Elliott.
Sept. 2, 1897.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

GALESBURG, ILL.,

Dublin, N. H.,
Sep. 28. 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

Yours was duly received, but I delayed reply hoping something might turn up to bring us together before my return to Wash.n But now I find myself rather unexpectedly called home on private business, shall leave this place to morrow & go directly home, stopping neither in Boston ~~&~~ nor New York. So I am busy cancelling engagements, actual or prospective, with various friends in each place. Write me of any thing you have to confer about with me re R.L.S. I have neither done nor heard anything further than as per our last correspondence.

I sincerely trust you are much improved in health, if not indeed quite well — that is of the first consequence, all other things quite secondary. I confidently

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anticipate your appearance at the next Congress to preside in good form. Shufeldt must go, for the honor, dignity and even safety of the A.O.U. If anything were wanting to enforce that conclusion, it would be found in the fulsome bluff he has put up against Dr. M. & myself, almost requiring the tension to decide which of the parties to the affair can remain as members.

With renewed hopes of hearing good news from you about your health,

Faithfully yours,

Coues

Groves - Elliott
Sept. 28, 1897

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION.

1726 N St., Wash^n D.C. Oct. 31, 1897.

My Dear Brewster:

I have not heard from you directly for some weeks, but, while I hope your health is returning, from what I hear I fear that after all you may not be able to come to N.Y. next week. It will be a great disappointment if we do not see you, and we shall have to consider whom to put in the chair. Ridgway will not be present, and could not preside if he were; it would be obviously improper for either Merriam ~~and~~ or I to take the chair. As between our other expresidents, I think perhaps Allen would be best on the floor, & Elliott in the chair. What do you think?

Everything looks favorable for the special business we have on hand, and I shall be much surprised if, through any unforeseen contingency, S. is not expelled. There should not be the slightest timidity or hesitancy on our part, for fear of anything he can do. He can do nothing, if we keep to the strict letter of our byelaw on the subject; and instead of thinking much about what he might do, if expelled, we had better consider what he surely will do, if not expelled – make the A.O.U. a laughing-stock and a reproach. We shall stand firmly on principle in this affair; and it is a case in which the principles of honorable men coincide identically with the shrewdest, the wisest, and in fact the only safe policy the Union can pursue.

S. has been as industrious as the devil, which is his strongest point, in making a row, and a nuisance of himself, in Washington, since he was apprised of the charges; and his braggadocio is only equalled by his mendacity, as usual. For example, he earwigged Ridgway into believing that

we intended to try his divorce suit over again! As Merriam says, R. was "knocked silly," and he wrote some astonishing letters, such as he never could have thought of had he not been grossly deceived by S. I found him in that state of mind when I first talked with him on the subject, and trust I succeeded in undeceiving him. It seemed to be news to him, that we had nothing to do with the alleged adultery, cruelty & desertion, on S's part, but simply with certain published papers.

Your friend Judge Athey has been good enough to give us some valuable hints and suggestions, which have been carefully attended to. I have also consulted good lawyers here, & see no possible hitch on any legal technicality. The way seems perfectly open and easy for us to purge the union of such a pestilent member, who now threatens the peace and dignity, if not the actual existence, of the union. Things have taken such shape that we have no alternative. It is quite possible that, in case he is allowed to win this case, several leading members will sever their connection with the union — one thing will lead to another, till nothing short of disaster will result.

Do what you can, even if you are not present, to make sure of the required vote of expulsion.

With warm regards, and best wishes for your complete restoration to health,

Cordially your friend,

Elliott Coues.

P.S. I shall be in N.Y. on p.m. of Sat. Nov. 6th, at the Continental Hotel, 20th St. & Broadway; but perhaps you had better address me to Allen's care, at the Museum, for any letter to reach me Nov. 8–11.

C.

Howes – Elliott.
Oct. 31, 1897.

1726 N Street,
Washington, D.C. Sunday Am. Nov. 14. '97.

My Dear Brewster:

I wired you congratulations on your selection, in Sage's name & my own, & stated failure of our case agt. S. Knowing how anxious you would be for full news, especially as the matter might have gone the other way had not your illness kept you from attending, I hoped to write you sooner than this, but found not a moment to call my own during the hateful week in N.Y. I returned late last night, and only this morning have found to write to Miss Audubon, after wiring her twice. I have written to her very fully & without reserve, & have suggested that she send you my letter to her; I presume she will do so, and you will be glad to read it; though you will take it in absolute confidence, & not let my feelings, as expressed to her, influence your own, especially in what I say of our mutual friend Allen. One of the saddest things in this whole miserable business is, that a lifelong friendship seems likely to be weakened if not broken between us, through his action in this case. He said I could rely upon him, but I leaned on a broken reed. I feared as much, when I saw he admitted S. to the Auts last October, with what tenable excuse I cannot imagine.

In the parlor Sage and I took at the hotel on Sunday came Elliot, Allen, Chapman & Dwight & Butcher for informal conference before session of the Council. I then received your last letter, and opened the case by reading it to the gentlemen present. It had weight, but I felt in a moment that the case was lost — and lost, not on its merits, but solely through fear of consequences if we

expelled S. It was the same in Council next day — most of the day frittered away, before I could even bring up the case. We had it in perfect form, with all the correspondence that had led up to the charges, showing that M. and I had just acted without nearly unanimous opinion, and the expulsion was urged by us both to the best of our ability. We talked some hours, bringing out clearly but one opinion of the watch, but exactly opposite opinions as to the expediency of expelling him. There were ten of us, 5 and 5, for and against. It was thus hopeless to win the Council. At the end we hastily patched up a resolution stating in substance that while the charges were fully sustained by the evidence, we had "no jurisdiction" over such a matter. In Union that evening, after elections &c., in which nobody had much interest, under the painful circumstances, — 19 present, most of them fully posted, some all in the dark — Merriam resigned the chair to Elliot, the Council resolution was introduced, & the Union asked to adopt it, which was done. Not a word was said in debate; not even were the charges read; and the case was lost. Neither Merriam or I could speak, as we were pledged to the Council's action. A word from either of us would have precipitated a fight, and I am haunted by the suspicion that we might possibly have forced the fight to victory. But probably it would have been to defeat. I think the union would have stood about 11 to 8 for expulsion, thus failing of effect, & then S. would have been tried and practically acquitted. This is the only thing that seems to condone or excuse the timidity of the Council. In that view, it was wise for Merriam and me & other "Auchmoorians" to be silent, even though we were assured that S. had

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

simply bluffed the Union off, with his threats of suing for damages, &c. He could never win a suit, provided we expelled him in strict conformity with the letter of our law in the case. No court would inquire into the truth or falsity of the charges, or even the justice or injustice of the expulsion; only, was he legally expelled? We had nothing whatever to fear.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

And if we had had everything to fear, we should have expelled him. I for one would have done so; and so would more than half our members. But a large minority were afraid to do what they knew they ought to do, for the honor and dignity of the Union. Principle was sacrificed to policy, and as I fear to a mistaken cowardly policy. I sincerely trust our action may be proven in the end to have been wise; I do not think so; I think this only begins, not ends, our troubles, and that there will be no peace or safety till we rid ourselves of this obnoxious member. Perhaps we can do so another year, possibly on the strength of his mendacious counter charges against Merriam & me, if we insist on forcing them to trial, instead of letting our friends kill them. Time will show the result of taking a poisonous snake by the tail, instead of by the neck.

One good thing was done in Council next day, by resolution that the editors of the Rock be authorized and instructed to decline any paper which may be offered by R.W.S. I introduced & carried this ostensibly "to relieve allen of embarrassment," which every body knew meant to stiffen up his spinal column by leaning him up against the authority of the Council.

In public meetings everything was pleasant,

as usual. Elliot had a grand thing, with 1,000 people, in the lecture hall, — his African trip, with nearly 100 slides. Chapman did handsomely with his Mexican matters, many slides. I exhibited Audubon's original portfolio he carried in England in 1826 & in it was his orig. MSS. of Vol. I of the Orn. Biogr. I think I made a good speech, about like what you complimented me on last year. There was one horribly rank thing, by a young fellow named Haines — regular fake, whether by a fool or a knave I don't know — perhaps both.

1726 N STREET.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

You don't know how sadly we missed you, & all were pained for the reason for your absence. I hope you can report good progress in health. Write soon as you feel able, and remember we have to brace up now to meet the consequences of our miserable cowardice as a corporate body. Nobody can tell what the wretch will do next, after this invitation to him to do what he pleases. My consolations in the matter are these: he has been thoroughly exposed; excluded from the Auk; some members appear in clearer light than before as to their personal character; and probably science has heard the last of any unfriendliness or friction between Merriam and me. I only fear that the union has been sadly hurt in its morale, with loss of prestige; schism has been made, and there is no telling now to what extent the breach may widen, even to shattering of our organization. Whatever may happen, you & all will admit that my skirts are clear; and what is more to me, my conscience & judgment give me their approval, in thus forcing a distinct issue between cowardice and courage.

With best wishes, Sincerely Your friend,

Elliott Coues.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

P.S. In council, when it came up that I had given notice of my intention to propose Miss A. for corresponding member, I deferred the proposition till the result of the R.I.S. case should be known, and as it turned out, of course I did not propose her. Miss Florence was elected associate, and has been advised to indignantly decline. We have about 70 need associate. No change in any officers or Council, except Deane vice Bendire; Thompson defeated for the 3d time for Active, & Richmond elected.

C.

Jones - Elliott.
Nov. 14, 1897.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 23 1897.

My dear Brewster: Your two long, good letters — the confidential one, and the other, reached me in due course, and I assure you I was glad to get them. I have not replied sooner, partly owing to almost unprecedented stress of work, but mainly because I thought I would wait a bit, to let my heat cool off, & my feelings simmer down. I was extremely gratified that you wrote to me as you did — not that I expected anything else, but the expression of your feelings & position I was glad to have. I think we take a very similar view of the whole situation. I am sure our action was timid and unwise; there is probably trouble ahead. S. bluffed the Council off its principles into a mistaken policy, & will take advantage of the fact. However, that was not your fault, nor mine. I did all I could; my conscience & judgment approve my course, which is the main thing for me — but I am also very glad to learn from you that my attitude ~~pained them~~ & was such as to retain the respect and good will of all my colleagues. I should have liked to fight to a finish, even a losing finish, as that is my nature; but better counsel prevailed, and I see now I did wisely.

As to Allen, I think you size him up exactly. I was only sorry that I had to make the identical estimate — it really surprised me a little, and pained me much. But never fear any rupture of our friendship, so far as I am

concerned. A dozen Shufeldt's couldn't do that! Our warm & intimate relations date from 1872, unbroken & unstrained. It would be a sorrow of my life if anything should come between us — and it shan't & mustn't so far as I am concerned. I think he feels the same way. I wrote him plainly, & he replied as frankly. Let it pass — and if you feel like it, assure him yourself of the tenor of this letter. I hope it is hardly necessary. I am sorry for one or two expressions that escaped me in my recent letter to Miss A. which you saw; but I knew how bitterly she felt, and my feelings just then were not sweet; so I sent them where they would find full response.

I have sent you more formal letter to Merriam, with permission to show it where he pleases. Yes, this is one good result of a bad business. You probably know that my grievance in that quarter dates from 1883, and has been kept up by what seemed to me intentional ignoring of my early mammal work, in the new and splendid developments of the science, making due to him & Allen. He could have just as well had me for an enthusiastic friend all these years; there was never any personal dislike — I always rather liked to meet him, always admired his ability and fine work, and we always met pleasantly enough. Then the north thing would be some excellent paper, but no sign that I had ever blazed a trail that way in earlier days, and thus a fresh invitation. However I have got along far enough to let all that go, and perhaps he will do differently in future. Whenever two

men like M. & me stand apart, it does neither any good, but just helps some third party, by keeping each other down. It will be far better for each of us to hold up the other's hands. I am now ready to do so for him, and expect him to reciprocate. The very next thing I put in type after our olive branch I had an opportunity to speak handsomely of him, and did so gladly. So did he, in reviewing Citizen Bird – Even though I had been harsh about his sister's book – and deliberately so. Each of us has called the other some pretty hard names for years, and nothing would disgust S. more than to find us friends, except to find Allen and me at odds. Blessed if I don't beat S. now on both those counts – even if I did not succeed in firing him out of the A.O.U.

I shall always be sorry you were not able to be in N.Y., partly because I think your influence would have made the "inadequate majority" enough to expel, mainly because of your ill-health. But I am glad now to hear such good accounts of you in this regard, and trust you are quite yourself again.

You can rest assured, and assure any body who may be in doubt, that there is not a trace of ill-will or hard feeling about me towards any member of the A.O.U. As I value the respect and friendship of all, so do I give mine to all. And let us all see to it, that the miserable scoundrel who has made such a reaction never effects any breach or schism amongst us.

Merry Christmas and happy New year, with many returns from

Always cordially your friend,

Elliott Coues.

Jones — Elliott.
Dec. 23, 1897.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 1, 1898.

My Dear Brewster:

Your pleasant letter is very welcome. I was thinking of sending it to Allen, but you can manage that of your own motion.

Our young friend Johnson is going to print your picture in the Osprey this month, and wants a few words about you from me. Please send date of your birth, and number of specimens now in your middle museum, with something about the number of years you have been building it up, &c.; also, your titles, scientific memberships, etc. The paragraph will be needed at once.

I trust you are quite yourself again, and at work.

Wishing you a happy new year and many returns, to see the full fruition of long labors,

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Cones – Elliott
Jan. 1st 1898.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 6. 1898.

My Dear Brewster:

You will be delighted to hear that Mrs. Shufeldt has won her case on appeal. Decision of circuit court reversed, absolute divorce decreed, with alimony and costs. Justice has triumphed at last, and the devil has deserted his own. The circuit court decision was a miserable abortion, in which local pothouse politics played a part to prevail upon the bench to render a decision contrary to all the facts in the case, as clearly set forth in evidence. That fiasco was only approached by the A.O.U. failure to expel, on absurd premises, through groundless fears. Perhaps we can come up with the disgraced member another year, if some of the Council get over their funks by that time. The "charges" of Merriam & me are quite enough to expel S., and the A.O.U. cannot plead "no jurisdiction" in a case affecting the honor of two of its founders, officers & councillors.

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Cones – Elliott
Jan. 6. 1898.

1726 N STREET,
WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 8. 1898.

My Dear Brewster:

I immediately sent your letter to the editor of the Osprey, for his information. Hope we can get you out for the Jan. number, but fear we shall have to hold you over for Feb.

Have you seen Miss Audubon's book? If you have not get it at once. There is a treat in store for you, and I know no one who will enjoy it more than yourself. It is a pronounced success, — received with acclamation, & already in its 2d edition! All the great daily papers give it columns.

I arranged for Merriam to review it for N.Y. Nation, Post, and Science. Now I want you to write a long review for the April Auk. I am disbarred from saying anything by my connection with the work, and there is no one else who will write such a sympathetic & discerning critique as yourself. Don't fail to do so. I have said nothing to Allen about it, but of course he would be only too glad to have you review the book for him.

Cordially Yours,

Elliott Coues.

Doves — Elliott

January 8, 1898.

AN ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ORNITHOLOGY

THE LEADING MONTHLY FOR BIRD-STUDENTS IN AMERICA

The Osprey Company

Publishers of THE OSPREY

61 NORTH PRAIRIE STREET

GALESBURG, ILL.,

Edited by
WALTER ADAMS JOHNSON
Associated with
DR. ELLIOTT COUES,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 10. 1898.

My Dear Brewster:

I thought you would be pleased with that news. Mrs. Shufeldt is spending a month with us, and already looking more like herself, after more than two years of misery.

As to Nuttall Ord., neither merriam nor I can move, as we are under grave charges, which, if sustained, should require our expulsion; and which, if found frivolous & malicious, & untrue in fact, should serve to expel the one preferring them. Suppose you take the matter in hand; get a copy of the charges from Sage, and prepare a new charge of that R.W.S. is an improper person to be a member of the Union, & specifying these charges. This would bring the matter to a head, and put the whole case on trial. Ask your friend Judge Olney what he thinks about that.

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Bones Elliott.
Jan. 10, 1898,

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan. 15, 1898

My dear Brewster:

The 24th will suit me as well as the 31st — or any other day you may name. Days are all alike to me when at home & at work, Sundays included.

We will discuss the R.W.S. matter when we get together. I can word the letter very mean to sign changes you may propose, and I know would consider it a privilege to do so. He voted last Nov. he came 1000 miles just to vote for expulsion, and you know how warm & staunch a friend he is of the Audubons. At the same time, it might be good policy to have some one else join him — preferably Allen, who has just written me that he feels like taking "aggressive action".

I should judge that several members, having got thro over their funk, don't feel very proud of themselves over baulking M. & me last Nov.

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Gouverneur Elliott
January 15, 1898.

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Jan. 24. 1898.

My dear Brewster:

I am very sorry to hear your trip has gone back on you again. We can't allow that, and I shall have to prefer charges agt. the "offending member," with a view to its expulsion from your system, and thus from the A.O.U., if it doesn't mend its manners!

Of course, I don't insist in the least upon the proposed call for a meeting, and in fact do not see but that it will have to be postponed for the present, whether we like it or not.

At the same time, I am free to say that your formal propositions do not strike me favorably. It is true we have done some bad work from snap judgments, but that would not be improved by subdividing the committee, or by meeting less frequently, either. Precisely "the most general fault" of the A.O.U. came from subdivision, when originally all determinations of species, subspecies & nomenclature, to say nothing of genera, families, & orders, were left to a subcommittee, and, you being sick or absent, & Hers having nothing whatever, the whole affair resolved itself into Ridgway's personal equation, backed by Stejneger, who was not even a member of the committee. That is the root of my restiveness in many particulars, all these years: for in 1883-'5 Ridgway was more & less jealous of the Key, Stejneger was personally hostile to me, and

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"anything to beat Coues" was the slogan. If I had not been overslaughed and ignored as far as possible in the preparation of the original check List, there would have been since decidedly fewer changes to be made.

So I think we had better meet as often as we can, annually at least if possible, do our best, make fewer snap judgments, decide all cases on their real merit without regard to "personalities" or "local color"*; thus heartily endorsing your 2d proposition except as regard to the subcommittee clause.

Cordially yours,
Coues.

* For remember how Washington reversed Cambridge judgments in several cases, in 1896. That was simply due to "change of venue"; as what was practically a "subcommittee" of Brewster, Allen & Coues in Cambridge was overruled by another subcommittee of Ridgway, Merriam & Coues in Washington.

Coues – Elliott
Jan. 24, 1898.

1726 N st., Mar. 6. 1898.

My Dear Brewster:

I was rather disappointed in your letter of the 27th ult., as it seemed to raise a decided question of what next — if anything, when we thought we had a sure case agt. the scoundrel. I sent it to C. H. M., asking him how he felt about it, and telling him he could rely upon me absolutely for anything he might wish — and you know when I say a thing of that sort I mean it. His answer is enclosed.

Of course, you will do as you think best, and I hardly feel called upon to do anything. But if you want to know how I feel about it, and what I wish, I can tell you easily, and set your mind at rest on that score. I am pretty tired of the whole disgusting business, very busy, with something better than S. on my mind, and very likely by next November shall care no more about the case agt. S. than I do now about his case agt. M. & Me — that is, nothing. Perhaps we had better quash the whole business; if you agree to this, I will promise not to move further, and no doubt M. will be willing to do the same. If, as it now appears, we missed our best chance last Nov., there is hardly any possibility we could do better next Nov. If this line of policy be decided upon, I suppose S.'s charges agt. C. & M. need never be noticed; they can sleep in the Secy's hands, never reach even the Council, no notices need

be sent out. Probably that will be wisest — at any rate, it will be a practical solution of the whole difficulty, without a breach of the peace. I think S. would be only too glad of this, and to please him to that extent is the only thing that makes me hesitate to drop our hold upon him for those frivolous, malicious & mendacious charges. But if he gets ugly, and wishes to press them, of course they must be met by counter charges, and the fight will be on. I should never think of defending myself from his aspersions, and should have not a word to say; the Council & the Union could do as they pleased about that; but of course I should reopen the attack made by C. & M. agt. S. originally, and bring up the whole case again.

Drop me a line when you have decided what you will do. Count on me for anything that will work made for the peace, dignity & honor of the Union, even if may end in letting such a beastly case of a member go unwhipped of justice.

I am glad to hear fairly good reports of your health, and hope your stay at Concord may be of advantage to you. Mrs. Conn has had a hard time of it with the grippe, in bed a month, but is now up, and seems to be recovering without further complication, though still very weak.

Very cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Cones – Elliott
March 6. 98.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mar. 13. 1898

My Dear Brewster:

Much obliged for the trouble you have taken to fix the required types. The process is irregular and undesirable, to be sure, but I hardly think so highly objectionable as what you say of Prof. Agassiz's attitude would seem to imply. It is highly desirable to have as many "topotypes" as possible, to keep the record technically right, and to provide standards for all future time; and I do not find any statute of limitation to prevent an author from selecting a type before, at, or after date of publication — though certainly 1898 is a good while after 1872! I have lately, at Dr. Fisher's instance, done the same for several of my Arizona nn. spp., descriptions of which were actually based on all my materials, out of which I now select certain specimens as topotypes. It is sometimes an important matter, as witness the Junco connectens "type" in your coll., by producing which I was able to kill Coale's J. shufeldti, to the satisfaction & relief of everybody concerned, excepting, no doubt, Coale & Shufeldt. I believe A.K.F. is getting up for the Biol. Surv. under Merriam quite an elaborate thing in the way of topotypes of N. Am. birds and mammals, and we all ought to help him to make it as complete as possible. If you have published any nn. spp. which are in like case with these of mine, I think it would be well for you to pin them down to particular specimens which you can select as your types, and let Dr. F. have the data accordingly.

Cordially Yours,

Coues

Mrs. Elliott
Mar, 13, 98.

1726 N st., Wash. D.C.
Oct. 12, 1898

My Dear Brewster:

I am glad to hear from you, even though your health report is not all that could be desired, and I fear we shall not see you next Nov. I can sympathize with what you say regarding loss of time. But you should feel much encouraged, comparing things now with what they were a year ago.

It makes little difference to me when the Comm. on Nomencl. meets – any time that will suit the rest will do for me; tho' on the whole, I should prefer it to follow Congress rather than precede it. It will be an excellent thing if Allen will get up the complete list of conundrums and have it in our hands some time before we meet. I have already written to him on this point.

Cordially yours,

Elliott Coues

Cones — Elliott
Oct. 12, 98.

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EDITORIAL ROOMS, 1726 N STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 22. 1899.

My Dear Brewster:

Thanks for the paper with your Sparrow article, which I have read with interest. Boston seems to be worked up into a fine frenzy, and another Sparrow war is on, much bigger and noisier than the one I conducted almost single-handed about 20 years ago, till the ornithologists and others informed on the subject came around to my side. Then it was too late, for the Sparrows had won; and now I wonder if their time has come indeed.

In any event, I also wonder that I am totally forgotten. Even in your article there is no mention of my forlorn long and strong services on your side of the case. Merriam's Bulletin, I think, does not so much as contain a reference to my pioneer work. Do you not think that justice requires some recognition in this event, now that the subject is one of such great public interest? I worked hard in those

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years, wrote a great deal, compiled and published a pretty full bibliography to date, made many enemies, & was roundly abused and vilified by many persons. I really think that something is due me now, that my side of the case is proven to have been the right one by the logic of events. Even tardy justice is better than injustice, and the worry I now suffer in this case should be righted. Will you help to put my case properly before the public? I have addressed a letter to Mayor Quincy, covering my paper of 1881 on the "Ineligibility of the Sparrow in America", calling his attention to it as a document which may serve to strengthen his hands in this fight. Very likely he never heard of me, and the letter and paper may be thrown aside, unless some friend of mine sees him and places the matter in its proper light. Will you kindly do this for me, and if possible see that these papers are given to the

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press? I ask no more than this.

I have not heard from you in the matter of the Osprey, but need not say how pleased I should be to have you contribute an article. I trust your health is now satisfactory. We missed you sadly at the last A.O.U.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott Coues

Bowes, Elliott, Esq
Mar. 22, 1899.

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EDITORIAL ROOMS, 1726 N STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 27. 1899.

My Dear Brewster:

I am greatly obliged to you for enlightening me on the Sparrow situation — of course I knew nothing, except that a war was on, and in addressing Mayor Quincy, I simply started in at the top, on general principles. By the way, is the "objectionable party" Mr. Osgood? If so, I also wrote to him, afterward — never heard of him before, and only knew that he was anti-Sparrow, as I supposed the Mayor to be also. Of course, I won't ask you to take any further action — it would not be wise for you to do so, and would be of doubtful utility in any event. But you who know me so well, can readily appreciate that I felt sore at being ignored in a matter where I fought for years alone, almost, ~~like~~ in a piece of pioneering. I knew I was right, just as the logic of events has since proved me

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to have been; and to be ignored under these circumstances hurts my feelings. It is true that in those years I had not the evidence that others have since supplied so copiously; but no friend has arisen to say that Coues was right all along, that the evidence we now possess proves his case! On the contrary, all reference to me has been carefully suppressed. I don't think Merriam would do that now, since we have made up all our former differences; but he did do so in his Bulletin, though he gave all the credit due to some others, especially Allen, who had had vastly less to do with the matter than myself. I am the one person who had the prescience or provision to get the Sparrow Question dead to rights 20 years ago, with almost every body against him, drawing odium and abuse upon my own head — and for what? To be totally ignored when the case turns out as I always said it

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would. I do not know of a single case in which my services to ornithology have been so great or so incontestable — and the result is only bitterness of disappointment to me.

I know you are one of the fairest and most just of men — that you give me full credit, — perhaps, in your kindness, even more than I deserve. But the public has forgotten me in this business; and what good will it do me for them to wake up to the facts after I am dead?

I am glad to see from your good strong letter that you have regained a fair share of health. You will soon be like your former self!

If you have any influence with Allen, I trust the opportunity will arise for you to exert it in behalf of peace & the general welfare. I cannot understand his present attitude — he is acting so queerly. His letters surprise and pain me.

Sincerely Your friend,

Elliott Coues.

Cones, Elliott.
Mar. 27, 1899.

~~THE OSPREY,~~

For confidence

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EDITORIAL ROOMS, 1726 N STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13. 1899.

My Dear Brewster:

Your good letter of Mar. 26 has been too long unanswered; but I have been hoping meanwhile to hear from Allen in such a way that I could report more favorable results than appear possible as yet.

Do not imagine for a moment that I could take offence at anything you said. – My dear friend, it was just like you – frank, manly, straightforward, and kind – and I thank you for it. "Faithful are the wounds of a friend."

I assume, without knowing, as you say nothing about it, that either Allen or Chapman, or both, placed some recent letters of mine to them in your hands, and that you were moved to try to help end the trouble that has been so long brewing. But whether I am right or wrong in this assumption is not very much to the point. I can just as well take your letter as based solely on what you have seen in the Osprey.

I think you will admit that my conduct of the magazine has been logical, consistent and effective; whether it is politic or expedient is open to question; I seriously doubt it myself, and have suffered more in mind than you can perhaps imagine, in penning such things as you now criticize so kindly yet firmly.

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I had to nerve myself to do it, as I conceived it to be my duty to my own convictions and sense of rights.

The idea of quarreling over a question of technical nomenclature strikes every same man as absurd. Yet, when I use my powers of argument, or satire, or ridicule, to show up the absurdity of Allen's position, he gets mad, and won't stand it, and won't answer, but makes it a personal grievance. Here is a Committee of five, of whom I am one, myself; nobody else is making a personal grievance of my accounts on the ridiculous Canon XL except Allen, who seems to constitute himself keeper of the Code. — In a long life of battling for my convictions, be they right or wrong, I have always found that the best way to attack an abuse is to pick out a conspicuous abuser, and attack him. Allen long ago came to the end of his argument with Elliot and myself: he can say nothing more, because there is nothing more to be said on his side; but he is keenly sensitive to ridicule, like all weak men, and lampooning by the Clover Kid no doubt excoriates him — as it ought. You remember what Boss Tweed used to say: he cared nothing what the papers said of him, for most of his constituency couldn't read, — it was "them d—d Nast-y pictures that got him." Allen sets up for the boss of the Code, and I shall not let up on him at present. I hardly

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expect to down him, or even dislodge him, for I believe he has the support of every member of the Comm. except myself. But I cannot allow him to maintain his position in peace and comfort, for many reasons, some of which I will give you.

Dr. Allen has been no friend of mine since Nov. 1897. It is human nature to hate those whom you have injured. The injured one can forgive, possibly forget; the injurer — never. I have been since that miserable affair a disagreeable object to Dr. Allen, because I represent his own conscience, his own loss of self respect. He knows that he pledged me his support in writing, and then basely betrayed me, through sheer cowardice. I never thought that he meditated treachery, or I should have dashed out at the time. I knew it was sheer cowardice, which he could not help; so I passed it over, and resolved that on my part it should make no difference. Then in Nov. '98 he weakly and slightly and evasively played me another scurvy trick. It was too small to take a stand on, but it simply earned for him my amused contempt. Then when I started up the poor Osprey (under difficulties with our illustrious friend Gill, of which you could hardly dream) there was never a friendly word — a sort of sulky, sullen, petty jealousy. All he could find to say

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for a starter was that I ought to be satisfied now I had got an organ, &c., and later on, giving me the polite friendly and charitable with that I might have ~~taken~~ all the rope I needed for the usual purpose, &c.

If anything like this be Allen's friendship, put to the test, I want none of it. I have measured him up, and passed on beyond; I am above such things, and know not how to deal with them, except by uncompromising hostility, open, fair and brave. I do not know how to deal with timorous time-serving, shifftiness & evasion, with which he has for some years sought to thwart & baulk me in various things — fair to my face, false behind my back. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Rev. iii. 16).

Yet I cannot look back upon all these years, since 1872, unmoved, that (until lately) Allen and I have been friends, always treating each other right, in print and in private. I also know I have my angular peculiarities, not always easy to deal with, my own limitations, many, many mistakes, both of judgment and of sentiment; Allen has generally been more lenient with these, or at any rate more adroit & tactful with them, and "managed" me, better than any one else. We have also both pulled

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together, as a rule, for the best interests of the A.O.U. It would be deplorable, and might have far reaching bad consequences to the union, if we should now come to open rupture, for you know I am a good hater as well as a good lover. I trust the rupture may be avoided, both by Allen and my own sense of what is due the other. But if it is to be avoided, and our strained relations be not broken, he must do his share. I will meet him personally, and call all personal grievance off. But I will not alter the tone of scientific controversy in the Osprey one iota to that end; but make the best fight I can, with weapons of my own choosing, ~~being~~ be they argument, satire, sarcasm, raillery, ridicule or invective; and Allen can also choose his own weapons. I have in the April Osprey a far more bitingly severe article than the Clever Kid lampoon, in the case of Allen's brutal and ignorant killing of Keeler's book in 1893. I am prepared if necessary, to resurrect and ventilate his action in the Sheffield case. The Osprey flies on balanced wings of perfect truthfulness and fearlessness; it is independent in all things, neutral in none, always aggressive, with uncompromising hostility to every form of cant, sham and humbug. If I

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cannot fly the bird on those lines, I will shoot it myself, and stuff it for my museum of my mistakes.

As to Chapman, he counts for me no more than an echo of Allen. He has behaved badly in the matter of his Bird Love, but I hardly hold him responsible, as he is not a free agent. I have not a particle of feeling against him, and if he finds himself in the Ospreys claws, it won't be a very sad squeeze after all, though it may make him wince. What the poor "Cherub" has confessed to one of his relations with A is humiliating enough, without any help from me.

Thanks for what you offer re the Sparrow war. But it won't be necessary to trouble you. I wish I had written to you first — for when I did write, you gave me a clear view of the situation, and you can count me out of that free fight — especially as I see by the latest papers that the Sparrows have whipped Boston "out of sight".

Again thanking you for your noble letter, which gives me occasion & reason for laying all the case before you, I am, as ever,

Faithfully Your friend,

Elliott Coues.

Louis Elliott
April 13. 1899.

THE OSPREY,

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF POPULAR ORNITHOLOGY.

ELLIOTT COUES AND THEODORE GILL, EDITORS.
WALTER ADAMS JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, ART EDITOR.

EDITORIAL ROOMS, 1726 N STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 24. 1899.

My dear Brewster:

I was very greatly pleased with your good letter of the 24th ult., and would have answered before, but you spoke of soon writing again, and I have been waiting for that. I am glad to find you saying that Allen was "cruel and unjust" in that Keeler review, because then you will not think my review in the April Osprey too severe. I am glad also that my former letter made my whole position so clear to you, that you can enter into my feelings, understand my motives, and thus acquit me of any wrong doing in my conduct. I appreciate this: I have been much buffeted of late, besides being betrayed by false friends, and now only rest on the war path in self-defense but will this serious policy of assuming the offensive, as I never allow

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myself to be put in the vocative, if I can help it. I have not heard a word from Allen for several months; I presume he will roast me in the July Auk, and that in November at Philada; — well, we shall see what we shall see. But one thing that no enemy of mine ever saw yet is my back — unless he crept up behind me by stealth.

I am off pretty soon for New Mexico, to spend the summer, but my address is always the same. Where are you going this summer? Elliot and a lot more are off on that Alaska flyer, which I have no doubt will be a great time; my artist Fuertes goes too. I hope you are quite recovered of in your normal health.

Cordially Yours,

Elliott Coues.

Jones - Elliott
May 24. 1899.

1726 N Street,
Washington, D.C. Nov. 24. 1899.

My Dear Brewster:

I was grieved not to meet you and other friends in Phila., and you will surely sympathize with my affliction, when you know how seriously sick I have been for the past 3 months. I was knocked out with overfatigue, overexertion, poor fare and exposure on my New Mexican tour of last July and August; since which time I have suffered almost incessantly at times intensely. The dreadful trouble that arose does not seem to threaten my life, but I am seldom free from pain, with no present prospect of relief.

When the deadly misery lets up on me for a few hours, I am putting the finishing touches to the 5th ed. of the Key, which my publisher is anxious to publish as soon as possible. He is prepared to put a pot of money in it, especially for a large series of Twenties text figures & folio colored plates for an accompanying atlas.

In looking up latest novelties, I find you opinion for Columba "coronis" at Key West. But it seems that coronis

Jones – Elliott

Nov. 24. 1899

Jacquin 1784 is a delicious Venezuelan species, & that the name of the West Indian bird, presumably the one we have, is C. squamosa ~~Forsto~~ Bonnat. 1790 (See Brit. Mus. Cat. XXI. p. 280).

Yet you may have looked up the synonymy and found reason to adopt Cornis. Kindly let me know.

I trust you are quite well now. You certainly have had your full share of ill health to contend with.

Cordially Yours.

Elliott Coues.

1726 N Street,
Washington, D.C. Nov. 26, 1899.

My Dear Brewster:

By all means, make the correction yourself in the January Auk. I know no more of the case than what I find in the Brit. Mus. Cat., which of course is equally accessible to you. It appears that your bird, from the West Indies, has sometimes been called coronsis, but that coronis of Jacquin is an obscure & questionable bird, so called from Coro, a Venezuelan locality.

I don't remember "abusing you all!" Brother Allen got a licking he richly deserved for his cruel injustice to poor Kuber. It became my duty, à propos of his Birtwell paper on Aptosochromatism, to administer the required castigation, and I think you yourself approved it at the time. For the rest, I simply

Jones – Elliott
Nov. 26. 1899.

satirized the Audubonian shriekers who "protect" birds in a hysterical and holier-than-thou way of advertising themselves. Gill will no doubt keep the Osprey deadly dull with decorous mediocrity till he gets tired of paying for it. I doubt that he has 200 subscribers.

I can't imagine how the pneumonia myth in my case originated! The case is much worse than that, exciting the gravest fears of the result. It is a stricture and ulceration of the rectum, due to presence of a tumor which makes a natural passage impossible, and I am warned to lose no time in consulting a specialist with regard to the nature of the tumor, and the possibility of relief by surgical operation. I go to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore tomorrow. After all the misery I have suffered for four months, it seems that more is in store for me, with the outcome still doubtful.

Sincerely Yours,

Elliott Coues.

LBF 18210 2

1726 N st., Washington, D.C.
Jan. 2, 1899.

Dear Mr. Deane:

The responsible party for the "Osprey" is no other than Prof. Theodore Gill of the Smithsonian; he owns the magazine and I am its editor. - We have had no end of trouble since Oct. with a worthless printer, and have changed.

October was out about Christmas, but we have held it to go out with November number, just now in press. December in printer's hands, to be out soon, I trust. I have made up copy for January, also.

I wish you would write to my distinguished colleague, and shouldn't mind if you roasted him - though I doubt it would expedite matters much. I have sent him your card to Mr. Johnson. Regards to Mr. Brewster who, I hope, is in good health. Haven't you, or hasn't he, something to send for the Osprey?

Truly yours.

Elliott Coues.

Cones, E.
Jan. 2, 1899.